



FUNZOKenya

What is FUNZOKenya?

USAID/Kenya's FUNZOKenya project is a Health Systems Strengthening project with the goal of improving the training of Kenya's health workforce. The project works with training institutions, professional regulatory bodies, relevant Government of Kenya (GoK) departments, USAID projects and other stakeholders in a bid to improve health worker training quality, access, timelines, and responsiveness at both pre- and in-service levels. Both public and non-public facilities will be supported in order to ensure regional coverage and ease of access by health workers. The project is also building the capacity of regulatory bodies to effectively regulate professional training.



Photo: USAID/Kenya

U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Jonathan S. Gration pledged U.S. Government support for FUNZOKenya's work to build the skills of Kenya's health workforce

Project Duration and Budget

February 2012 – February 2017

\$40 million

Who implements FUNZOKenya?

IntraHealth International

www.intrahealth.org

Great Lakes University of Kisumu

www.gluk.ac.ke

Moi University

www.mu.ac.ke

Results for Development

www.resultsfordevelopment.org

University of Nairobi

www.uonbi.ac.ke

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

www.unc.edu

Kenya Healthcare Federation

Where does FUNZOKenya work?

Nationwide

What does FUNZOKenya do?

FUNZOKenya is building the skills of health workers to respond provide comprehensive services to clients. The project focuses on the skills and knowledge gaps of health workers across the public and private sectors through expanded training opportunities. Activities include:

Capacity building

- Increasing admissions capacity for selected training institutions.

Curriculum development

- Developing new curriculum content and courses for health workforce training.

Workforce training

- Applying modern approaches in training such as e-learning and M-learning.
- Improving capacity of faculty and clinical mentorship
- Upgrading training facility management systems and infrastructure to attract more resources.
- Support for scholarships and loans to cover training fees for students from needy and remote regions.
- Support for standardization and quality assurance of trainings and workforce performance.
- Assisting the Ministry of Health's Human Resources Development Department.
- Support for a robust health workforce training data system through existing systems, and through training stakeholders in data access and utilization.

How is FUNZOKenya making a difference?

FUNZOKenya works in all regions of the country in public and private institutions, with the objective of attaining wide access and regional equity in the health workforce.

- Scholarships and loans will be awarded to students from northern and arid lands to enable them to receive medical training. Upon completion of training, these new health workers will be bonded by the GoK to work in their regions for three years.
- With support from USAID/Kenya, at least 8 regional training institutions will become centers of excellence in health workforce training through use of IT and distance education.

- Eight or more professional regulatory bodies will receive updated training to equip them to better monitor professional training.
- Training activities will be more efficiently tracked through an updated data system linked to existing regulatory body and ministry data systems.

What key challenges does FUNZOKenya face?

In order to best serve clients, health training institutions must move from traditional approaches to modern approaches with enhanced use of technology. Too many health workers attend in-service trainings only to acquire continuing medical education points; trainings should be relevant to expertise. The Ministry of Health must be more involved in coordinating and overseeing health workforce trainings.

FUNZOKenya in action

A distinguished gathering of diplomats, elected officials, health sector leaders, and health care providers including U.S. Ambassador to Kenya Scott Gration and Kenya's Minister of Medical Services Peter Anyang' Nyong'o assembled at the University of Nairobi College of Health Sciences on April 3, 2012 to launch USAID/Kenya's FUNZOKenya project.

FUNZOKenya is a five-year USAID-funded initiative to improve the skills of Kenya's health care workforce and expand access to quality health care services for all Kenyans.

Challenging the Government of Kenya to adopt "sustainable and modern training systems that are better equipped to meet the health demands," Ambassador Gration noted that "the aim of FUNZOKenya is to increase the number of health workers with updated skills and knowledge in the health sector."

The Government of Kenya's Minister of Medical Services, Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, stated that the government is implementing reforms that promote increased health sector efficiency, accountability, and decentralization, citing the "human resource factor" as the key to reform.

Nyong'o also spoke of the critical need to "upgrade the skills of health workers to meet the evolving disease burden" and of revamping health care management systems to move responsibility to counties.

Included on FUNZOKenya's reform agenda is the provision of three-year scholarships to 60 Kenyan health workers to help meet the need for health care personnel in areas of northern Kenya.

For more information:

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Kenya's Minister of Medical Services Peter Anyang' Nyong'o and U.S. Ambassador Scott Gration at the April 2012 launch of the FUNZOKenya project

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